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WEEKEND NEW YORK
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The Earth's MIGHTIEST movie is here

Superheroes unite! 'The Avengers' storms into US theaters packing star power punch {page 08}

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OVERACTING ASHTON MEANS ACCIDENTALLY RACIST POPCHIPS AD
THE WORD {page 12}

HEAT RUN KNICKS OFF COURT IN GAME 3, SEASON NEARS END
SPORTS {page 17}

WE'VE GOT JOKE SUGGESTIONS FOR ELI'S 'SNL' DEBUT
NEWS {page 02}

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Eli aiming for laughs

Super Bowl-winning NY Giants quarterback scheduled to host 'SNL' this weekend Big brother Peyton a tough act to follow Promos hint jokes may revolve around pigskin

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The spotlight will be on Eli Manning on Saturday night at 30 Rockefeller Center.

This might be a tougher crowd than a rowdy Giants stadium. Giants quarterback Eli Manning will stand under a different kind of spotlight Saturday night while hosting "Saturday Night Live," his first time leading the sketch comedy show.

After scoring a Super Bowl win in 2008, Manning was invited to host the show, but opted not to because his brother, Peyton Manning, had just hosted himself — after winning the 2007 championship with the Indianapolis Colts.

"I thought it might be a little fresh in everyone's mind," Manning said Wednesday. "I didn't want to have to go up against tough competition and the great job that he performed."

Since winning the Super Bowl, Manning has been undergoing offseason conditioning, and he said he would host the show only if it didn't interrupt workouts. He lives in Hoboken with his wife and baby daughter.

He'll face some stiff competition — Peyton's performance was widely praised, in sketches that showed him teaching children how to break into cars and hitting one with a football during a coaching lesson.

If promos for the show are any hint, guests can expect Eli to toss a few footballs and crack jokes about his athletic prowess. Another toss-up is whether he'll be paired with Rihanna, the show's musical guest.

"SNL" executive producer Lorne Michaels said he pursued Manning for years, calling him "charming."

"You sort of believe that he doesn't take himself that seriously," Michaels said. "There's this sort of essential modesty to him, and I think that plays well with what we do."

"If the host is spending a lot of time protecting an image, it's exhausting, particularly for us," he added.

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Other comic athletes

Manning is the 35th athlete to host SNL since it started in 1975, and will join the ranks of Michael Jordan, Derek Jeter and LeBron James.

- Manning's brother Peyton wowed the crowd, but other athletes trying their hand at live sketch comedy haven't fared as well: Athletes like Michael Phelps and Wayne Gretzky were criticized for their wooden performances.

Jokes we want to hear

Hey, "SNL" writers, need a little help? Here are some jokes we'd like to see Eli make Saturday night in his opening monologue:

- I know I may look pale to you, but not everyone from New Jersey is as tan as Snooki. Or Patricia Krentcil.

"I decided to host after I saw Peyton do it. Now I'm gonna do it twice."

WHAT WE'D LIKE TO HEAR

- I'm so wholesome, the only exotic dancing I've seen is Victor Cruz doing the salsa.
- I'm only doing this after Mark Sanchez turned it down. He found out all the female "SNL" staffers are older than 18.
- They asked Tim Tebow, too, but he has to get up early for church tomorrow morning.
- Tom Brady also really, really wanted to host tonight. But the writers were too afraid Gisele would yell at them if his jokes weren't funny.
- Brett Favre was scheduled to host, but when he was going through security at 30 Rock, he refused to hand his phone over to the guards.

In the news

British art fair comes to NYC

The Frieze Art Fair opens Friday on Randall's Island, making its U.S. debut. The British art fair features 180 galleries from around the globe, beginning Friday and running through Monday. The exhibits, which focus on contemporary art and living artists, draw about 60,000 people each year, according to organizers. The event will also host daily presentations.

METRO/AB

In the news

Taxis to island

The city reportedly will provide a new way to get to Randall's Island. DNAinfo reported yesterday that the city inked a deal with New York Water Taxi for weekend ferry service. The New York Water Taxi provided ferry service for special events, but this will be the first regular weekend service, and will likely leave from the 90th Street pier.

METRO/AB

Niagara Falls high-wire walk set for June 15

NIAGARA FALLS. High-wire performer Nik Wallenda will walk a tightrope over Niagara Falls on June 15.

Wallenda, 33, a member of the famed "Flying Wallendas" family of circus performers, is set to walk a 2-inch cable strung 1,800 feet across Niagara Falls gorge. It's the first such feat between the United States and Canada in more than a century. Gaining permission for the June 15 walk required almost two years of lobbying by Wallenda and politicians in upstate New York. REUTERS

150 The cable will be 150 feet above the falls that span the two countries.

▶ Obama

Park Slope was Obama's former stomping ground

PARK SLOPE. Today, Park Slope is a neighborhood known for its parents toting strollers, yoga mats and toddlers, but 30 years ago, it was a grittier place — and a future president's stomping ground.

An article in the June 2012 issue of Vanity Fair magazine reveals that President Barack Obama used to live on Second Street, on the top floor of a town house there.

Obama shared the apartment with his girlfriend, in the middle of the 1980s, according to the article.

The current residents of the Brooklyn brownstone, two brothers, told The New York Times they were surprised to hear they were living in hallowed real estate.

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Manhole covers stolen from city streets

Manhole covers are being stolen from the streets of New York City, leaving dangerous holes in the roads and sidewalks, authorities said on Thursday.

More than 30 manhole covers have been stolen in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx since early March, presumably by thieves selling them for scrap metal, said a spokesman for Con Edison.

Witnesses have reported seeing thieves wearing utility-style clothing but without official insignia prying open covers with a car jack, loading them onto pickup trucks and driving away, Con Edison said. The covers are made of cast iron, and the high price of metals make them attractive to sell as scrap. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Anyone who steals these covers creates a serious hazard for pedestrians and motorists."

MILOVAN BLAIR, CON EDISON'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR BROOKLYN-QUEENS ELECTRIC OPERATIONS

Brooklyn surgeon volunteers at Army hospital

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Landstuhl Regional

A tropical beach vacation may have been more relaxing, but Dr. Marcus D'Ayala, a vascular surgeon at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope, instead chose to spend two weeks last month at the U.S. Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. There, he treated soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Many of the soldiers were missing limbs, had been paralyzed or were suffering from other "horrific injuries that will change their lives," said D'Ayala.

Yet not once did he hear them complain.

"On a personal level, it's great to interact with these people," D'Ayala said. "Helping them was a pleasure and an honor."

Vascular surgeons, who specialize in arteries and veins, have been volunteering for two-week rotations at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center since 2007.

The soldiers "are very different from the patients we usually see," D'Ayala said.

"We don't see that sort of trauma in the United States," he added.

JESSE GREENSPAN
letters@metro.us

64,000 troops treated there

The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is the largest American hospital outside of the United States. Since 2001, the medical staff there has treated more than 64,000 patients who fought in Iraq or Afghanistan, with a survival rate of 99.5 percent.

The Medical Center often hosts volunteers. "We have a waiting list for people who want to do this," said Sue Crosson-Knutson, a spokeswoman for the Society for Vascular Surgery. **METRO/JG**

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Primate. Protest

▶ Air France is part of a shrinking list of airlines that continue to fly primates, according to PETA.

MILES DIXON/METRO

Crouched in tiny cages and wearing monkey masks, PETA members protested outside Air France's U.S. headquarters on 55th Street on Thursday. They are demanding the airline stop transporting monkeys and other primates from Asia and Africa to U.S. labs for scientific experiments. **METRO/CB**

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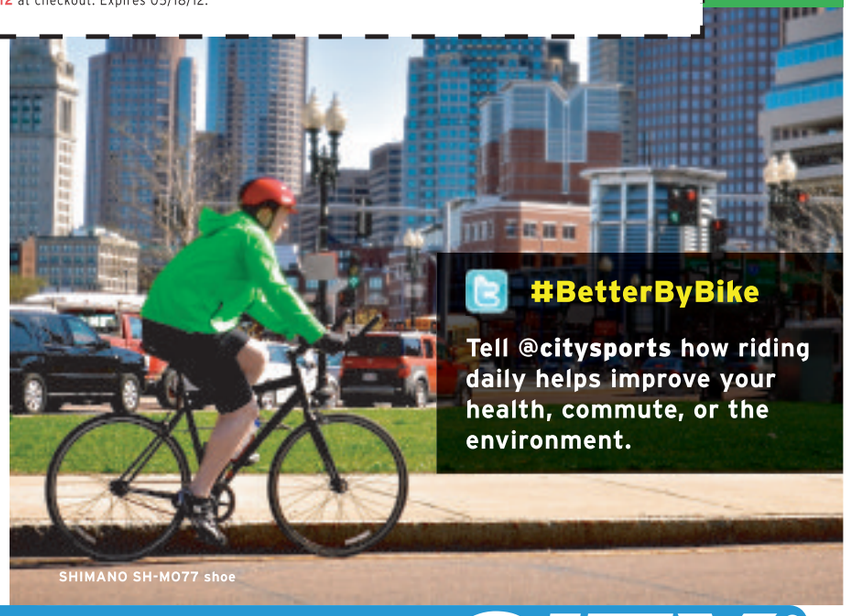
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Have we sold our democracy to the highest bidders? Absolutely. Do you care? That depends.

An analysis released this week by watchdog group Center for Public Integrity revealed that a small handful of mega-rich billionaires have been given disproportionate control over our political discourse. Of all super PAC donations this election season, data show, more than a third — $68 million out of a total $202 million — came from the top 10 contributors.

And here's another little nugget of joy: Most of these most-wealthy donors happen to be fabulously conservative. Of the top 10 donors, seven were right-leaning individuals (six Republicans, one a libertarian giving to a Republican candidate), two were left-leaning unions, and one an obscure doctors co-op.

Contrary to impressions that the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling would usher in an era of unfettered free speech, what we've got here is a dramatic devaluing of ordinary speech. Necessarily, as this tiny slice of rich fellows spends vast millions to legally disseminate their right-wing beliefs, the thoughts of regular individuals suffer a sort of idea inflation: The views of real working people are drowned beneath the onslaught of slick campaign materials. There's no competing, unless, perhaps, you're a union; but let's be honest, you're probably not.

And just what have the fruits of this newfound freedom borne? Well, a whole lot of negativity, actually. According to a report from the Wesleyan Media Project, 70 percent of TV campaign ads so far this election season have been negative — up from a downright upbeat 9.1 percent in the 2008 campaign! Oh, the good old days, when men were men and secret Muslims knew how to keep their mouths shut.

Whether any of this bothers you will likely depend on your political affiliation. Do you care that money is poisoning the political process? Our guess: Not if your team is winning.

MIKE CLARKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sheldon Adelson, with his wife, has so far donated the most super PAC money: $26.5 million. He's worth an estimated $21.5 billion.

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GET FED

Because sometimes you've only got time to skim the headlines:

- "11 Dem state chairs endorsing 'freedom to marry'" **POLITICO.COM**
- "Blankfein's Gay Rights Support Shows Wall Street's Obama Dilemma" **BLOOMBERG**
- "Ron Paul Supporters Take Over State Caucuses, Hope To Shake Up Convention In Tampa" **TPM2012**
- "What Is President Obama's Problem with Medical Marijuana?" **TIME.COM**
- "Rove: Victory Laps and Double Standards" **WSJ.COM**
- "Obama plan would ease weapons export rules" **THE WASHINGTON POST**

He said, we said

"I spoke with a fireman yesterday, and he has a one-bedroom apartment, and his wife is pregnant, and he can't afford a second bedroom."

HERE'S MITT ROMNEY, ATTEMPTING TO CULTIVATE AN AURA OF CARES-FOR-REAL-PEOPLENESS WEDNESDAY. BUT THEN, HERE'S ROMNEY LAST WEEK: "WE WILL STOP THE UNFAIRNESS OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS GETTING BETTER PAY AND BENEFITS THAN THE TAXPAYERS THEY SERVE." GUESS WHAT, ROMNEY? FIREMEN ARE GOVERNMENT WORKERS. OOPS.

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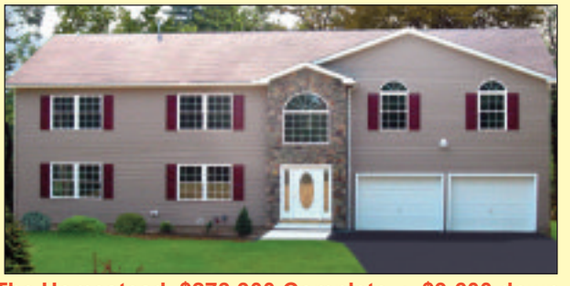

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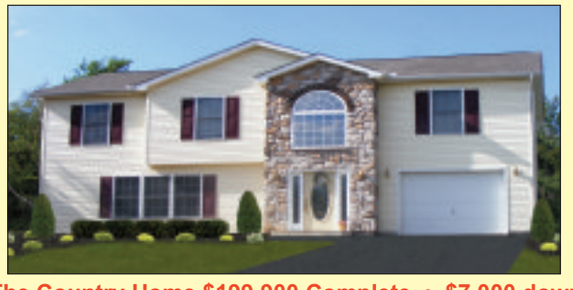

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WEEKEND

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES

▶ Wow, check out all that avenging! Nice avenging, guys!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

It's the biggest superhero movie of the summer, at least if you count the egos Marvel's all-stars talk about teaming up for the first time

It's all been leading up to this: Four years after "Iron Man" — with "The Incredible Hulk," "Thor" and "Captain America" in between — "The Avengers" assembles Marvel's team of superheroes into the summer's first blockbuster.

Written and directed by "Buffy" creator Joss Whedon, the film finds our heroes in New York City, trading barbs while battling Loki, the superbaddie from "Thor." We asked each member to reflect on their roles, working with such a large all-star cast and why Whedon is "the Line Police."

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

"Thor"

Chris Hemsworth on being a graceful Norse god:

"I have one [fight] scene where I was on the wire — because I hadn't learned to fly yet — and I was supposed to come down and land on a cliff," he says. "I was supposed to land, step and have a conversation. The first couple of takes — and this is going on the DVD extras somewhere — I just face-planted into the dirt. Very ungraceful and un-superhero-like."

"Captain America"

Chris Evans on his role in the team:

"I give all these orders. It's like, 'Hulk, you do this impossible thing. Thor, you bottleneck a portal and Iron Man, you fly over here — and I'll take the stairs.'" [Laughs] Who would he trade places with if he could? "See, I want to say Iron Man, because I love those movies," he says. "But who can do it better, you know what I mean? You think the shoes would be too big to fill."

"The Incredible Hulk"

Mark Ruffalo on taking the mantle:

As the third actor to play this role in a decade — after Eric Bana and Edward Norton — Ruffalo says: "It was terrifying. I knew what my responsibility was, or I felt it just by making the mistake of going online and reading some of the fanboy responses to the announcement that I was playing the next version of Bruce Banner. And that was a mistake. I will never do that again. But I never had a role more scrutinized and criticized before I even shot a single frame."

"Iron Man"

Robert Downey Jr. on not going it alone anymore:

"I remember I would get nervous about [the idea of pairing us up] and excited about it and doubtful of it," says the erstwhile Tony Stark. "By the time Chris and Chris had launched their individual franchises with success and charisma, and by the time we had Mark, I was like, wow. So just being a worker among workers is kind of where I started out and it was nice to not have to really have to carry a movie. And everyone was really, really, really equal in this venture."

"Hawkeye"

Jeremy Renner on how surreal it was to assemble the team for the first time:

"I think it's just getting all of the actors in one room all in costume, it was like Halloween," Renner says. "I was friends with them as humans, and now they're dressed up like silly people. When everybody was together, that was the most memorable. And creepy and funny. Getting to play with Thor's hammer while he stroked my bow. Oh here we go, that's going to be great. That's going to get me in trouble."

"Nick Fury"

Samuel L. Jackson on being the straight man:

Director Joss Whedon admits that a lot of the funnier character moments in "The Avengers" came from improvisation among the cast — but Samuel L. Jackson, who plays team organizer Nick Fury in the film, would beg to differ. "I kept wanting to say [to Thor], 'I don't come to your world to blow s— up,' but they won't let me say it," Jackson admits. "I don't get to say this nice, cute s—. Every time I would change something, [Whedon] would come to me like the Line Police. He was always on me!"

Review

You got a suit? Then suit up

'The Avengers'
Grade: ❶❷❸❹❺

Nick Fury (an eye-patched Sam Jackson) has, then doesn't have, a magical, interdimensional space cube. Turns out, it's a bad thing to lose, especially to a miffed Norse god with access to giant, evil, flying space dino-fish and a passing similarity to Pee Wee Herman. Obviously, this is a quandary that will require some avenging.

"The Avengers," directed by fanboy impresario Joss Whedon, is essentially the movie for which Marvel Film releases "Captain America," "Thor" and a handful of "Iron Man" and "Hulk" movies acted as protracted trailers. "The Avengers" knows what you want. With that in mind, Whedon makes a playground where character dynamics, not details, shine — and he plays with his heroes like a little boy smashing toys together. Amplified with stellar effects, "The Avengers" is more inventive than your typical action fest.

Old, bold and terribly controlled

‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’ is a sweet film aimed squarely at those in the retiree age group that it’s about

▶ The cast is so packed with older British stars, it might as well be England’s answer to “New Year’s Eve.”

COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

An objective movie review — if there can be such a thing — wouldn’t mention how just the idea of a film about British retirees who emigrate to Jaipur, India sounds like a stuffy, unfunny idea. While it’s true that most films center on those in the prime of their lives and it truly is a shame that people in their golden years are underrepresented, could we meekly suggest that perhaps there’s a reason for that? Does anyone want to watch Judi Dench coquettishly bat her eyes at Bill Nighy? Or feel the inevitability of at least one of the characters heading off for the pearly gates at some point?

If you go

‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’
Director: John Madden
Cast: Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ❶❷❸❹❺

Look, the story is, while front-loaded with cliches, pleasant enough. The actors are some of the best Britain has to offer. The backdrop of Jaipur is fascinating. The story sensitively deals with issues that come with aging and broken relationships, while adding the right amount of gentle humor. Your parents will love it. But you probably won’t get too much out of it.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

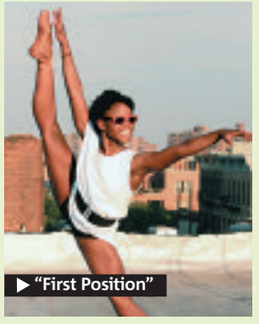
Indie spotlight

‘First Position’

This documentary follows six young dancers who are preparing to compete in Youth America Grand Prix.

‘A Little Bit of Heaven’

COURTESY OF FIRST POSITION FILMS



▶ “First Position”

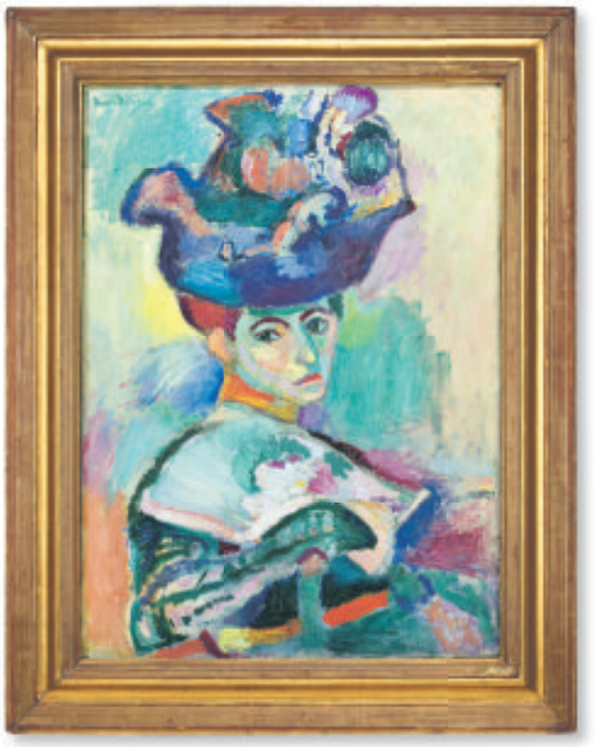
Kate Hudson stars as a plucky woman who finds that she has cancer, but is consoled by her hunky doctor, played by Gael Garcia Bernal.

‘The Perfect Family’

Kathleen Turner stars as a religiously devout mom and wife whose not-so-ideal family stands in the way of her winning an award for being a model Catholic.

THE STEINS COLLECT

Matisse, Picasso, and the Parisian Avant-Garde



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The exhibition is made possible by The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation and the Janice H. Levin Fund.
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It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Henri Matisse, *Woman with a Hat*, 1905, oil on canvas, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, bequest of Elise S. Haas. © 2012 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Ian Reeves.

DAILY NEWS
nydailynews.com
"★★★★★"
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
"A TRIUMPH!"
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. CHRIS EVANS MARK RUFFALO CHRIS HEMSWORTH SCARLETT JOHANSSON JEREMY RENNER TOM HIDDLESTON AND SAMUEL L. JACKSON AS NICK FURY
MARVEL
THE AVENGERS™
MARVEL STUDIOS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PARAMOUNT PICTURES A MARVEL STUDIOS PRODUCTION A JOSS WHEDON FILM
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. "MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS" CHRIS EVANS MARK RUFFALO CHRIS HEMSWORTH SCARLETT JOHANSSON
JEREMY RENNER TOM HIDDLESTON CLARK GREGG COBIE SMULDERS WITH STELLAN SKARSGÅRD AND SAMUEL L. JACKSON AS NICK FURY
MUSIC BY ALAN SILVESTRI VISUAL EFFECTS AND ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALAN FINE JON FAVREAU STAN LEE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LOUIS D'ESPOSITO PATRICIA WHITCHER VICTORIA ALONSO JEREMY LATCHAM PRODUCED BY KEVIN FEIGE
STORY BY ZAK PENN AND JOSS WHEDON SCREENPLAY BY JOSS WHEDON DIRECTED BY JOSS WHEDON
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Artists gather, dance ensues

DEVLIN SHAND

▶ "Werk!: The Armitage Gone Variety Show" runs through Saturday at Abrons Arts Center (466 Grand St., www.henrystreet.org).

Dancers made great inroads at the Whitney Biennial this spring. So it's fair that Karole Armitage, our great magpie choreographer, lets visual artists colonize her show at Henry Street Playhouse, the 100-year-old proscenium theater at the Abrons Arts Center.

Armitage, who choreographed the recent Broadway revival of "Hair," devotes the first part of the evening to a series of artists' diversions — some charming, some really annoying. Eclectic Doug Fitch, his head the giant center of a tiny, impeccably detailed room, opens the program with a bravura performance. It's followed by Will Cotton's "Cockaigne," which includes Charles Askegard's trio for ballerinas in a spun-sugar environment to music by John Zorn .

A glitter/goth rock group performs sadistic rites against a "virgin" who gets revenge. Kalup Linzy and a posse of toughs sail through. And the lovely Weimaraner Bobbin, a fifth-generation descendant of William Wegman's Man Ray, casts his skeptical eyes on the doings, assisted by Sean Hilton.

The grand finale is Armitage's own "Rave," a vogue/ballet extravaganza. Standouts are Jacob Michael Warren rocking sheepskin chaps, Megumi Eda in bare breasts and fishnet and Bennyroyce Royon wearing a platinum wig, channeling Marilyn Monroe. It's a blast.

ELIZABETH ZIMMER
elizabeth.zimmer@metro.us

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42nd Street Between 7th and 8th Avenues
A BEAUTIFUL SOUL (PG-13) 9:35, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05. Digital Presentation
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:10, 12:45, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:45, 1:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-12:45-3:15-5:40-8:10-10:45. Digital Presentation
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:50, 11:25, 12:50, 2:25, 3:50, 5:25, 6:50, 8:25, 9:55, 11:35, 12:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50-11:25-12:50-2:25-3:50-5:25-6:50-8:25-9:55-11:35. Digital Presentation
HEADHUNTERS (HODEJEGERNE) (R) 11:20, 4:25. Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 3:00, 6:20, 9:45, 1:05. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:40-3:00-6:20-9:45. Digital Presentation
JANNAT 2 (R) 11:15, 2:40, 6:05, 9:35. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:40, 11:00, 1:00, 2:20, 4:20, 5:40, 7:05, 7:40, 9:00, 10:25, 11:00, 12:20, 12:25, 12:30, 1:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:40-11:00-1:00-2:20-4:20-5:40-7:30-7:40-9:00-10:50-11:00. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 9:00, 10:00, 10:40, 11:30, 11:50, 12:20, 1:20, 2:00, 2:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:40, 5:20, 6:10, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 8:35, 8:40, 9:30, 9:50, 10:20, 11:20, 11:55. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; 9:20-12:40-4:00-7:20-10:40. ETX: Enhanced Theatre Experience;RealD 3D; **Fri** 12:00-12:40-12:50-12:55-1:10. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sat** 9:00-10:00-10:40-11:30-11:50-12:20-1:20-2:00-2:50-3:10-3:40-4:40-5:20-6:10-6:30-7:00-8:00-8:35-8:40-9:30-9:50-10:20-11:20-11:55. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sat** 12:00-12:40-12:50-1:10. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:00-10:00-10:40-11:30-11:50-12:20-1:20-2:00-2:50-3:10-3:40-4:40-5:20-6:10-6:30-7:00-8:00-8:35-8:40-9:30-9:50-10:20-11:20-11:55. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
THE PERFECT FAMILY (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 10:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) 9:45, 12:15, 1:25, 2:45, 5:15, 6:25, 7:50, 10:15, 11:25. RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (PG) 10:55, 4:05, 8:55
RESTLESS CITY (R) 2:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
RING KINGS: MAYWEATHER VS. COTTO (NR) **Sat** 9:00
SOUND OF MY VOICE (R) 10:45, 1:05, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:10, 10:30, 12:05, 1:30, 3:10, 4:30, 5:30, 6:40, 7:30, 8:30, 9:40, 10:30, 11:30, 12:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:10-10:30-12:05-1:30-3:10-4:30-5:30-6:40-7:30-8:30-9:40-10:30-11:30. Digital Presentation
THE THREE STOOGES (PG) 10:05, 12:35, 3:05. Digital Presentation
WARRIORS OF THE RAINBOW: SEEDIQ BALE (NR) 9:30, 1:10, 4:50. Digital Presentation
WRATH OF THE TITANS (PG-13) 12:25. Digital Presentation
WRATH OF THE TITANS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 9:55, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:55. RealD 3D; **Sat** 9:55-2:55-5:35. RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:55-2:55-5:35-8:15-10:55. RealD 3D

AMC Loews Kips Bay 15
888–AMC–4FUN
Corner of 31st Street and 2nd Avenue
21 JUMP STREET (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:20, 6:30, 11:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:20-6:30. Digital Presentation
BULLY (PG-13) **Fri** 10:30.C INDEPENDENT
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (R) **Fri** 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:20, 10:45, 1:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:40-1:00-3:20-5:40-8:20-10:45. Digital Presentation
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 11:00, 12:35, 1:50, 3:20, 5:15, 6:05, 8:05, 9:00, 10:55, 11:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-11:00-12:35-1:50-3:20-5:15-6:05-8:05-9:00-10:55. Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 10:05, 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 10:50, 4:05, 9:15. Digital Presentation; 10:50-4:05. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 11:30, 2:10, 2:40, 5:20, 5:45, 8:30, 9:00, 11:40, 12:10. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:00-11:30-2:10-2:40-5:20-5:45-8:30-9:00. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:30, 10:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:10, 3:10, 3:40, 4:20, 6:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 9:55, 10:40, 11:20, 12:35, 1:00. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:30-10:00-12:00-12:30-1:10-3:10-3:40-4:20-6:15-6:45-7:30-9:30-9:55-10:40. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:30, 1:40, 4:50, 8:00, 11:10. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) 10:00, 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00. RealD 3D
THE RAVEN (R) 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:15. Digital Presentation
RING KINGS: MAYWEATHER VS. COTTO (NR) **Sat** 9:00
SAFE (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45, 12:05. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-12:20-2:40-5:00-7:20-9:45. Digital Presentation
THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45, 12:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:40-1:30-4:20-7:00-9:45. Digital Presentation

Regal Union Square Stadium 14
800–326–3264 628
13th & Broadway
21 JUMP STREET (R) 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
AMERICAN REUNION (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:25, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20, 12:55; **Sun** 1:25-4:15-7:15-10:20.
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 11:10, 12:00, 3:40, 5:40, 7:00, 10:10, 11:05
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 10:50, 12:20, 1:20, 2:10, 3:30, 4:30, 5:20, 6:50, 7:40, 8:30, 10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 1:00. Digital Projection; **Sun** 10:00-10:50-12:20-1:20-2:10-3:30-4:30-5:20-6:50-7:40-8:30-10:00-10:50. Digital Projection
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 10:20, 11:20, 11:50, 12:50, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:50, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:10, 12:10, 12:40. RealD 3D; **Sat** 10:20-11:20-11:50-12:50-1:40-2:40-3:00-4:00-4:50-5:50-6:20-7:20-8:00-9:00-9:30-10:30-11:10-12:10-12:40. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:20-11:20-11:50-12:50-1:40-2:40-3:00-4:00-4:50-5:50-6:20-7:20-8:00-9:00-9:30-10:30-11:10. RealD 3D
THE RAID: REDEMPTION (SERBUAN MAUT) (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:00, 3:50, 6:25, 9:10, 11:45; **Sun** 1:00-3:50-6:25-9:10.
SAFE (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 1:35, 2:30, 4:10, 7:10, 8:50, 9:50, 12:30; **Sun** 11:00-1:35-2:30-4:10-7:10-8:50-9:50.
TITANIC 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:05, 3:20, 7:30, 11:40. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:05-3:20-7:30. RealD 3D

AMC Loews 34th Street 14
888–AMC–4FUN
312 W. 34th St.; between 8th and 9th Avenues
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20, 12:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:45-10:20. Digital Presentation
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) 10:15, 1:20, 4:20, 7:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 9:20, 12:40, 4:10, 7:20, 10:50. Digital Presentation
THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 9:40, 12:10, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 11:00. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 2:50, 9:40. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 4:30, 5:20, 6:20, 8:00, 8:50, 11:30, 12:20, 1:00. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sun** 9:30-10:30-11:30-1:00-2:00-4:30-5:20-6:20-8:00-8:50-11:30. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) **Fri** 9:15, 12:30, 3:45, 7:15. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sat** and **Sun** 9:15-12:30-3:45-7:15-10:45. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) 10:00, 12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20. RealD 3D
THE RAVEN (R) 9:55, 12:20, 3:10, 5:50, 8:20, 11:10. Digital Presentation
SAFE (R) 10:45, 1:10, 3:35, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20. Digital Presentation
THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 9:50, 11:20, 12:50, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:40, 12:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 9:50-11:20-12:50-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:25. Digital Presentation
TITANIC 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 3:20, 7:30, 11:50. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-3:20-7:30. RealD 3D

AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13
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1998 Broadway
THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG-13) **Fri** 9:45, 12:15, 1:30, 3:00, 4:35, 6:05, 7:40, 9:15, 10:45, 12:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:25-12:15-1:30-3:00-4:35-6:05-7:40-9:15-10:45-12:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:25-12:00-12:15-1:30-3:00-4:35-6:05-7:40-9:15-10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
CHIMPANZEE (G) 10:30, 12:40, 3:05, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:35, 12:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:10-1:10-4:10-7:30-10:35. Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 12:05, 3:25, 6:45, 10:05. Digital Presentation
THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 12:50, 4:15, 7:45, 11:15. Digital Presentation
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:15, 11:10, 12:05, 1:40, 2:45, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 8:30, 9:45, 10:30, 12:05. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:15-11:10-12:05-1:40-2:45-3:30-5:00-6:15-7:00-8:30-9:45-10:30. Digital Presentation;RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) 10:05, 12:20, 2:50, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10. RealD 3D
THE RAVEN (R) **Fri** 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40. Digital Presentation; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:45-2:30-5:15-8:00-10:40. Digital Presentation
TITANIC: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 3:00, 7:30. RealD 3D
TO THE ARCTIC IMAX 3D (G) 10:00, 11:15, 12:30, 1:45. IMAX;RealD 3D

Regal E-Walk 13
800–326–3264
247 W 42nd St @ 8th Ave - In Times Square
21 JUMP STREET (R) **Fri** 11:15, 12:10, 1:55, 3:05, 4:40, 5:40, 7:20, 8:20, 10:00, 11:00, 12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:15-1:55-4:40-7:20-10:00-12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
AMERICAN REUNION (R) 12:00, 2:35, 5:15, 8:05, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
CHIMPANZEE (G) 11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LOCKOUT (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20, 12:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE LUCKY ONE (PG-13) 11:20, 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:50, 10:50, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE RAID: REDEMPTION (SERBUAN MAUT) (R) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20, 11:50
THE RAVEN (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:10, 11:45; 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:30-10:10-12:45. CC-Closed Captions;RPX
SAFE (R) 11:30, 12:30, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00, 12:50. CC-Closed Captions
TITANIC 3D (PG-13) 12:15, 4:35, 8:50. RealD 3D

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11
800–326–3264 629
102 North End Avenue - Vesey & West Street
THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:15, 12:30; **Sun** 12:30-2:50-5:20-7:40-10:15.
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 9:55, 12:40; **Sun** 12:50-3:55-7:00-9:55.
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) 10:30, 12:10, 3:30, 4:50, 6:50, 10:10, 11:10. Digital Projection
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 12:40, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40, 12:45. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:40-12:40-1:40-3:00-4:00-6:20-7:20-8:00-9:40-10:40. RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS 3D (PG) 2:10, 6:55. RealD 3D
THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (PG) 11:50, 4:30, 9:15
THE RAVEN (R) **Fri** 12:05. OC-Open Caption; **Fri** 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25.; **Sat** 2:40. OC-Open Caption; **Sat** 12:05-5:15-7:50-10:25.; **Sun** 2:40-5:15-7:50.; **Sun** 12:05-10:25. OC-Open Caption
SAFE (R) 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35
THINK LIKE A MAN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:40, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05, 12:50; **Sun** 10:40-1:20-4:15-7:10-10:05.

Clearview's Chelsea
212–777–FILM
260 West 23rd Street at 8th Avenue; Between 7th & 8th Avenues
BOLSHOI BALLET: THE BRIGHT STREAM LIVE (NR) **Sun** 11:00
ELLES (NC-17) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. Digital Projection; **Sun** 5:00-7:30-10:00. Digital Projection
THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT (R) 12:15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 2:40, 5:45, 9:00, 12:10; **Sun** 11:30-2:40-5:45-9:00.
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:45, 4:15, 7:45, 11:15. CC/DVS; 11:00-2:30-6:00-9:30. Digital Projection; **Sun** 12:45-4:15-7:45-11:00. CC/DVS
MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 7:00, 8:45, 10:30, 12:15
THE PERFECT FAMILY (PG-13) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN (PG-13) 10:45, 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Chris Colfer is having trouble sitting still, Jennifer Love Hewitt knows what she likes, Steve Martin has some breaking news and Joan Rivers is sharing in the glad tidings.

@chriscolfer
Currently suffering from what I call the 15th hour caffeine giggles...

@TheReal_JLH
I am in love with the brand wildfox, Victoria secret lingerie, Christian loubitans, pop music, coffee bean and my lovelys!

@SteveMartinToGo
Telling you before the tabloids break the story: I'm trading in my in-line skates for a bicycle.

@Joan_Rivers
Congratulations to Jessica Simpson on the birth of her baby girl! The only downside is that when her water broke 200 patients drowned.

Jennifer Love Hewitt

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Pop! Goes Kutcher's new ad campaign

Poor Popchips. They just wanted to get people to eat their unique snack food (aka: communion wafers with salt) but their recent ad campaign is spectacularly backfiring.

The face of the campaign, **Ashton Kutcher**, is currently facing criticism for his roles in the commercials, which many feel are racist, according to E! News. In the online video, Kutcher appears as numerous ridiculous characters, including Raj, a brown-faced Bollywood producer with a thick Indian accent.

▶ Kutcher as Raj, a brown-faced Bollywood producer.

(Kutcher also appears as a character sending up **Karl Lagerfeld** that could be construed as homophobic.) Overwhelmingly negative responses to the advertisement prompted Popchips to remove it from YouTube and Facebook a day after it was released. "The new Popchips worldwide dating video and ad campaign featuring four characters was created to provoke a few laughs and was never intended to stereotype or offend anyone," a company rep said in a statement to the Hollywood Reporter.

Here's the thing someone should have told Popchips: Kutcher can't act. At all. His version of "acting" is basically over-the-top parody — all the time. So when he gets tapped to portray someone of a different race, even in a comedic role, of course it will be seen as mockery/racism. The only actor who could tackle this without getting in trouble? **Sir Ben Kingsley**. Popchips, get that guy on the phone ASAP.

Amber Riley

Amber Riley strikes back

Let's hear it for "Glee" star **Amber Riley**. After a red carpet fainting spell earlier in the week, she's on the (hilarious) defensive about her personal life — including whether or not she's expecting. "Let me stop the rumor mill right now. I'm not pregnant. Yes, I'm black but I don't have diabetes, I don't starve myself to fit clothes; I buy clothes to fit me not vice versa," Riley posted to Twitter in response to the rumors that sprouted up overnight after her episode. "I did get a great laugh this morning reading all the BS, though."

See you on the baby flip side!

On a personal note, today is my last Word column for a while — I'm due to have baby on Saturday. Although I try to make this a lighthearted column, in all seriousness, please know it's been a real honor to be a part of your lives for the past several years. I hope you've enjoyed reading The Word as much as I've enjoyed writing it. Interacting with my readers is the best part of this job and I've loved all of your e-mails, tweets and calls — even the nasty ones. So thank you for being such wonderful people and for making Metro part of your morning routine. See you in September!

Talking points

Miley Cyrus: Animal angel

Miley Cyrus added a fourth dog to her pet roster after finding a Rottweiler-Beagle mix abandoned outside a shopping center, she revealed on Twitter. "He was left in a box in front of Wal-mart," Cyrus posted. "I don't understand how people can be so cruel. That's why we named him Happy." Cyrus spent the rest of the day posting photos of Happy enjoying his new environment.

Cameron Diaz's bad, sobby haircut

A recent rushed visit to a hairdresser friend left **Cameron Diaz** with much shorter locks than expected — and tears in her eyes. "I started crying. I felt so vulnerable. For a woman to all of a sudden have no hair — oh my God," she tells Jay Leno during an interview. "There was a little misunderstanding. I said I just want a little bit cut off." But a bit quickly turned into a bob, which turned traumatic for all involved. "She started crying. I started crying. A couple other people started crying. I ended up writing her a few e-mails over the next few days assuring her I was OK," Diaz says.

Lady Gaga is single again

Lady Gaga and boyfriend **Taylor Kinney** have reportedly called it quits, with the culprit being the singer's hectic schedule, according to Us Weekly. "She will be touring nonstop until next year and has found she can't have a relationship at the same time," a source says of Gaga, who is about to embark on a 110-stop tour. "There's just no room for anything else. Her work is all-consuming." Of course, to hear the source tell it, the relationship might not have lasted much longer on its own, anyway. "Taylor was all about himself, a typical actor, and didn't completely get Gaga," the source adds.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lady Gaga, single again

A few pretty ladies for your weekend

1. The never-aging duo **Vanessa Williams** and **Cindy Crawford** attended The International Press Academy of Beverly Hills' 2012 Satellite Awards at Cafe La Boheme on Wednesday in West Hollywood.

2. Hoda Kotb and **Kathie Lee Gifford** attended Dream Big! The Jacob's Cure 2012 gala at Cipriani Wall Street on Wednesday in New York City.

3. Scarlett Johansson of "The Avengers" was honored on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Wednesday in Hollywood.

4. Santigold guest hosted on SiriusXMU in the SiriusXM Studios on Wednesday in New York City.

5. Eva Mendes attended a screening of "Girl In Progress" at the Directors Guild of America on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

6. La La Anthony and **Swizz Beatz** attended the fourth annual Bronx Charter School For The Arts Art Auction Fundraiser on Wednesday in New York City.

7. Sarah Silverman performed at A Night Of Comedy For Project A.L.S. at the Jon Lovitz Comedy Club on Wednesday in California.

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2:MARC STAMAS/WIREIMAGE
3: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/WIREIMAGE
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TV watch list

'Sherlock'

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DRAMA. This take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's eccentric detective turns the clock to modern London, where Holmes (the commanding Benedict Cumberbatch) solves unsolvable crimes with the help of Iraq vet Dr. John Watson (Martin Freeman as the perfect calm foil), who blogs their escapades. The cases, based on Conan Doyle's tales, are twisty, dark and artfully shot, more than enough to capture the imagination of a generation that has grown up on "CSI." But they're also whip-smart and fun — this is no run-of-the-mill procedural. The Woman, a dominatrix who tangles with Holmes in Sunday's premiere, makes sure of that. **Season premiere, Sunday, 9 p.m., PBS** AMBER RAY

Breaking through with a 'Break It Yourself' approach

Andrew Bird on the late-night TV rounds, a potential new sound and his 'solitary, antisocial leanings'

One week after Andrew Bird filmed an appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" in Los Angeles, the singer-songwriter and violinist is back home in New York with his segment due to air that night. Apart from "Saturday Night Live," Bird has done just about all the late night TV shows. "'Colbert' was a high point," he says, admitting he's a big Stephen Colbert fan. He's confident that "SNL" will happen, "in due time."

And Bird is due. "Break It Yourself," an album which his bio calls his 12th effort, has just been released.

"I call it my ninth album," Bird says. "It's the ninth album that's had a cycle to it. If you count them all up there's probably 15 or 16."

That includes his presolo outfit Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire, which highlighted the 38-year-old's love of prewar jazz before his singer-songwriter turn. His future work might take yet another twist.

"I hear things that I don't know how to pull off yet. What I am hearing is less pop-oriented and more devotional, or religious. Not religious in the sense of 'Jesus I love you,'" he emphasizes. "It seems like it might be time to do something a little different."

▶ Andrew Bird plays Beacon Theatre (2124 Broadway) on Friday and Saturday (www.beacontheatre.com).

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

The antisocial network

"Break It Yourself" plots Chicago native Bird's trajectory from a breakup to a new life in NYC.

"There's a theme on the record of being self-contained, self-satisfied, I suppose," he says. "A lot of New Yorkers are experts at that. I'm puzzling through whether that's a virtue, not needing anyone else. I've got my own solitary, antisocial leanings. I'm kind of questioning those on the record."

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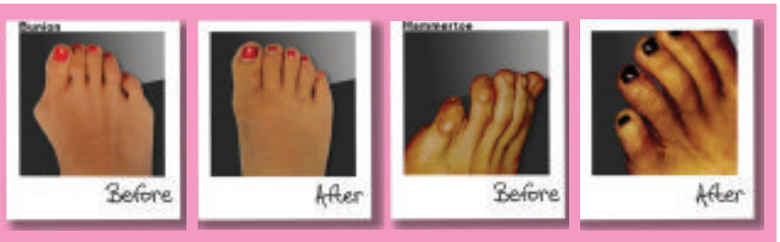

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Letters

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Health care reform: More good than bad

RE: "WHO DO YOU THINK PAYS FOR OBAMACARE?": Given the grim choice between having to pay higher premiums or facing the possibility of being denied coverage once I get sick after years of paying premiums, I would choose the lesser of the two evils. The new health care law is not perfect, but it sure is better than what we had before. Thank you, President Obama. **CAROLYN CASEY, VIA E-MAIL**

Where are all the nonpartisan letters?

When I look to the letters section I am hoping to see America's responses and resolutions to our nations issues. However, it is only hyperpartisan points of view that very rarely contain a substantive and actionable perspective. Is there not a single day when common sense solutions and not party bickering stagnation will prevail — even in your selection of letters? **GLENN KORNEGAY, BRONX**

With GOP stance on gays, why bother?

RE: "EARTH TO GAYS: GOP DOESN'T WANT YOU": Well let me say that Mr. Grenell should have known better. None of these GOP people are genuine or have any backbone when it comes to principles. As a gay man, it really amazes me that my brothers put themselves through this. Are you trying to make them like you? Well they don't. Or maybe they do? Guess as you will. One thing is for sure: You are not going to get the truth. It's all about how the wind is blowing that day! Get out of there and make some change happen first, and then go over there if that is what you want. **KEVIN MCNAMARA, VIA E-MAIL**

According to the right wing of the GOP, with two equally qualified applicants — one straight, one gay — the straight one must be hired. Isn't this Affirmative Action favoring straights? I thought conservatives bitterly opposed this policy. This whole sordid affair is just one more example of Mitt Romney being unwilling or unable to think for himself. **DICK ZIEGENFUSS, NEW YORK**

Double standards in party campaigning

RE: "OBAMA, OSAMA, ROMNEY: WHAT IF?": Let me get this straight: Romney and the Republicans are irked about President Obama touting the bin Laden story on the campaign trail as one of the president's greatest accomplishments? Mitt accuses him of being weak on foreign policy — but when he rebuts it, he's accused of politicizing the story and exploiting 9/11. Meantime, Mittens is parading around Manhattan with, of all people, Rudy Giuliani. **STUART SEPTOFF, STATEN ISLAND**

Wall Street only creates inequality

RE: "OCCUPY BACK IN THE NEWS, BUT WHY?": Larry Penner trots out the trope about how Wall Street is what "drives our economy." Wall Street, however, doesn't teach, build, train, research or invent anything that really exists. People are what drive our economy, not idle wealth — and certainly not a collection of stockbrokers who soak their clients on a daily basis. **JOSEPH CONNELL, BROWNSVILLE**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

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Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You might not show any signs of getting a move on, but once you get involved in something you like, you'll be dedicated to the cause until the job is finished.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Try not to take yourself or any unimportant developments too seriously. If you make a game out of things instead, you'll enjoy the day far more.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** One of the best ways to resolve a family issue is to give everyone enough time to sleep on it before trying to find a solution. It could help keep everyone's ego in check.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Think first in order to phrase your remarks or comments in a noncombative manner. If you get careless, there's a chance you might say something offensive without thinking.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Of course it's important to look out for your own interests — but not at the expense of being indifferent to everybody else's. By being shortsighted, you'll find that you may gain now but lose later.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you want to be successful, don't ease up on your work if you can't cut the mustard on your first try. It looks like it might require a second or even third attempt to get something complicated done.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Someone might deliberately give you confidential information as a test to see if you would reveal it to others. Aim to pass with flying colors.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Any hope or expectation based on a realistic premise has an excellent possibility of being realized today, mostly because you've taken off your rose-colored glasses.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although competition might be a bit tougher than usual, you'll be up to the challenge. It isn't likely that you'll do any whining at the fist sign of a struggle.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** What keeps you mentally relaxed is having faith in the fact that there's always a solution to every problem. As long as you keep a cool head, you'll find the answers easily.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Outside factors may cause a great deal of change — but even though the turmoil might upset others, your versatility will handle it well.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** There's always a chance that those with whom you're involved might lack your vision when it comes to making an important judgment call. Get involved in the decision-making process. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Alter a skirt
6 Fundamental
11 Corn on the __
14 Finish second
15 Type of coffee
16 Military addr.
17 Child
18 River-mouth deposit
19 Coq au __
20 Hunch
22 Lorelei's river
24 Came to
28 Wined and dined
30 Tabloid staffer
31 Sponge features
32 Chomps down
33 County subdivision
36 Sci. of flora
37 Provisions
38 San Francisco hill
40 Fellow feeling
43 Claudius, to Hamlet
45 Ohio Indians
46 Creeps about
47 Medieval entertainers
50 Strings of rosaries
51 Collect
52 Volcano feature
53 Director __ Brooks
54 No-fat Jack
57 Hayes or Asimov
62 Mdse. bill
63 Lightweight quilt
64 Zodiac scales
65 Shogun's capital
66 Colonial diplomat Silas __
67 Mystify

Down
1 LP speed
2 New Haven student
3 Chinese dynasty
4 Novelist Umberto __
5 Fine-wooled sheep
6 Waited awhile
7 Fringe __
8 RSVP word
9 Hobby ender
10 Pays with plastic
11 Quibble
12 Express a view
13 Filleted
21 "__ Rosenkavalier"
23 Diner special
24 Friday portrayer
25 Amigo's farewell
26 Four-footed pal
27 Riviera summer
28 Boisterous
29 Sea eagles
31 Makes light of
33 Sizable handbags
34 Pizarro victim
35 Oktoberfest music
37 Not cloudy
39 She preceded Mamie
41 N.Y. baseballers
42 Urged
43 Discloses
44 Once called
46 Dad, to Grandpa
47 __ Lee Curtis
48 Rectify
49 Round of applause
50 __ Dame, Ind.
52 Normandy port
55 Homey dessert
56 Vitamin amt.
58 Convene
59 __ Dhabi
60 Jacket part
61 Gown go-with

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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	9	8	4	3				
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				7	9	5	1	
				5	3	4	6	
7			8					
6			1		2		3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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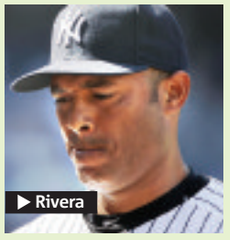

▶ Rivera

Rivera hurts right knee in pregame

It was a nightmare scenario for Yankees fans as they saw all-time saves leader Mariano Rivera crumpled on the ground holding his right knee in pain.

Just nobody dreamed it would happen in the outfield during pregame batting practice.

Rivera was shagging balls in center field, which he does before every game, when he went back on a ball at the warning track and his knee buckled.

Manager Joe Girardi and trainer Mark Littlefield sprinted out to the wall and assisted Rivera as he was placed on a cart and driven to the locker room.

The Kansas City team doctor diagnosed it as a sprained knee, but Rivera was sent for an MRI to check for any ligament damage.

He could not put any weight on the leg and was literally carried into the locker room.

The Yankees were still awaiting the MRI results last night, but any diagnosis would likely be given a second opinion in New York. MARK OSBORNE

UNLUCKY NO. 13

Knicks lose record 13th straight playoff game as they fall behind 3-0 in series Heat defense destroys New York in second half James scores 32

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Anthony shot just 32 percent from the field and New York could only muster 30 points in the second half as they fell behind 3-0 in the series.

The Knicks headed into Game 3 as the more desperate squad. They played like it throughout the night, but it still wasn't enough in a tough 87-70 loss to the Heat.

Without star power forward Amar'e Stoudemire — and already without the services of Jeremy Lin and Iman Shumpert — the Heat were able to hop into a time machine and win a grimy, physical affair that harkened to the old Knicks-Heat rivalry of the 1990s.

LeBron James had 32 points, eight rebounds and five assists, but also had eight turnovers. His impressive fourth quarter made up for that, notching 17 points.

New York shot 32 percent for the game, including 20 percent on 3-pointers. Carmelo Anthony failed to come up big when his team needed him most, as he only had 22 points on 7-of-22 shooting from the field.

Miami engineered an 11-point swing once James went to the bench with his fourth foul at the 7:23 mark of the third quarter, as Dwyane Wade took over the contest. Wade, who finished with 20 points, had 12 in the third quarter.

The final dagger by a Heat team that suddenly found its rhythm at an inopportune time for the Knicks came in a two-minute span that featured a disallowed 3-pointer from Steve Novak at the 7:11 mark, followed by a deep 3-pointer from Chalmers to give the Heat its largest lead of 12 with 6:07 remaining. Chalmers then added another 3-pointer two minutes later to salt away the win.

The victory gives Miami a commanding lead in the series. The Knicks have now lost an NBA-record 13th-straight playoff game. No team in NBA history has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit to win a seven-game series.

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

.307

Carmelo Anthony's winning percentage in the playoffs is now .307 (16-36) in his career. Many of those games came in Denver, but the Knicks have lost seven straight.

In the news

Rangers ready

Wednesday night's triple-overtime epic in Game 3 was an all-time contest in Rangers history.

But coach John Tortorella dismissed the notion it would bring the team closer together for Game 4 (NBC, 12:30 p.m.).

"[I] don't think our team needs to be galvanized; it is," he said.

"It's a win for us," Tortorella said of Game 3. "[I] don't want us to get carried away."

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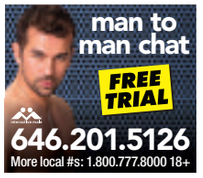

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